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news release

REPRESENTATIVE KIKA DE LA GARZA
ANNOUNCES SIGNING OF MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT
FOR VALLEY EMPOWERMENT ZONE

For Immediate Release: 3 July 1995

WASHINGTON, DC--South Texas Congressman Kika de la Garza announces that on Wednesday, July 5, 1995, there will be a ceremony to formalize the signing of a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) for the Rio Grande Valley Empowerment Zone.

This special event, scheduled for 2:00 p.m. at the Rio Grande Valley Chamber of Commerce, initiates the successful beginning of the Rio Grande Valley Empowerment Zone.

The Rio Grande Valley is one of only three rural areas chosen nationwide to receive benefits from the Clinton Administration's Empowerment Zone initiative. With the Empowerment Zone designation, South Texas can expect to receive more than \$40 million to enhance the economic development of the area.

Special guests attending the formal signing include Congressman de la Garza; Mr Dayton Watkins, Acting Administrator of the Rural Business & Cooperative Development Service, USDA; Alvin Brown, Director of the Empowerment Zones-Enterprise Communities Program, USDA; Pat Montoya, Regional Director of the U S Department of Health and Human Services; M J Pena, Acting State Director-at-Large of the Rural Economic and Community Development Service; and Michael McKinney, Commissioner of the Texas Health and Human Services Commission.

"This ceremony marks the beginning of a cooperative agreement between local, state and national authorities to undertake the economic revitalization of the area," Rep de la Garza said. "It brings together key players who will be instrumental in making the Empowerment Zone program in our area work."

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